What Does The Matrix Convey About Reality?

The Matrix is considered to be one the most philosophically engaging movies ever to be made, it is riddled with various different aspects that fall under the TOK areas and ways of knowing. The movie makes you consider; what is reality? How do you that you’re in reality? How do you know what is true? And how we perceive the difference between a dream and reality? This is what I will be analyzing in the following paragraphs.

The Matrix uses the technique of sense perception to justify the world outside the Matrix. When Morpheus confronted Neo and gave him the following lecture, “What is real? How do you define real? If you're talking about what you can feel, what you can smell, what you can taste and see, then real is simply electrical signals interpreted by your brain. This is the world that you know. The world as it was at the end of the twentieth century. It exists now only as part of a neural-interactive simulation that we call the Matrix. You've been living in a dream world, Neo.” Neo at first struggles to grasp these thoughts given his lack of understanding in the ways of knowing. Nevertheless by using sense perception, putting Neo through many simulations of what the world is really like outside the Matrix compared to inside, he proved to Neo that there was a world that we don’t know.

The manipulation of emotion is also present within the movie, and may be seen in numerous ways for example, when in a scene Cypher had said, “You know, I know this steak doesn't exist. I know that when I put it in my mouth, the Matrix is telling my brain that it is juicy and delicious. After nine years, you know what I realize?... Ignorance is bliss.” Although Cypher knows the Matrix is influencing his sense of taste, he is oblivious to this, as the sense of taste has emotionally captivated him enough to reconsider what the Matrix has allowed him to fall into a sense of belief, allowing his emotional vulnerability over power him.

The movie tries to convey that it is very hard to distinguish the difference between a dream and reality and the world we think is real is actually a dream world ‘The Matrix’ and is only what others want us to understand of it. This can be shown when Neo has a meeting with Agent Smith; suddenly he wakes up thinking it was a dream. However he had no way of differentiating between what was his dream and what could have even been a reality. Thus proving the difficulty of having proof of what is real, and what isn’t. Overall the movie is trying to show that there is no way of knowing and we believe what we want to believe. When  Trinity said, “The Matrix isn't real.” And  Cypher replied, “I disagree, Trinity. I think the Matrix can be more real than this world...  ” It is proving that knowledge is subject to opinion and the line between the Matrix and the reality can be as impenetrable as you want it to be.